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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,765	11/01/2000	Naoji Otsuka	35.C14905	9398

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THINH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/702,765

Applicant(s)

OTSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

Thinh H Nguyen

Art Unit

2861

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19, 22-24 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20, 21 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 20, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by
Askeland et al. (U.S. 6,254,217)

Askeland (figs.11A-11C; col.2, line 36 – col.5, line 20) discloses every element of the instant claimed printing steps comprising nozzles colors being disposed symmetrically (col.3, lines 28-31) in the scanning direction wherein the first, second, and third recording steps (characterized by drop order 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th; fig.11A) for forming the ink of different colors to at least one the plurality of the secondary color subpixels within the pixel areas are formed corresponding to an order different from the order of another (see also claims 1-40).

3. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hotomi et al. (U.S.6,601,937)

Hotomi (col.6, lines 24-32; fig.16) discloses the printing apparatus for forming ink drops in different amounts comprising a recording head with respect to the ink material of at least one color, first and second arrays of the recording elements, in which the recording element for applying ink of different amounts are arranged with a predetermined pitch, are arranged in the scanning direction, and the recording elements for applying ink in the same amount are arranged with a displacement by the predetermined pitch in the direction of the array.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26 are allowed.
5. Claim 27 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment filed September 2, 2003 have been fully considered. However, arguments with respect to claims 20, 21 are moot in view of the newly discovered reference to Askeland et al. (U.S. 6,254,217) and Hotomi et al. (U.S.6,601,937) as noted in the above new ground(s) of rejections.


Contact Information

Art Unit: 2861

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thinh Nguyen at telephone number (571) 272-2257. The examiner can generally be reached Mon-Friday from 9:00A – 5:00P. The official fax phone number for the organization is (703) 872-9306.

The examiner supervisor, Stephen Meier, can also be reached at (571) 272-2149.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.


Thinh Nguyen
April 16, 2004

Thinh Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800